

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received SEP 25 1987

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

**1. Name**

historic Laudholm Farm

and or common

**2. Location**

street & number Laudholm Farm Road

\_\_\_ not for publication

city, town Wells, \_\_\_ vicinity of

state Maine code 23 county York code 031

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
___ district	___ X public	___ occupied	___ agriculture
X building(s)	___ private	___ unoccupied	___ commercial
___ structure	___ both	X work in progress	X educational
___ site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	___ entertainment
___ object	N/A in process	X yes: restricted	___ government
	___ being considered	___ yes: unrestricted	___ industrial
		___ no	___ military
			___ museum
			X park
			___ private residence
			___ religious
			___ scientific
			___ transportation
			___ other:

**4. Owner of Property**

name Town of Wells

street & number Town Office

city, town Wells, \_\_\_ vicinity of state Maine 04090

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. York County Registry of Deeds

street & number

city, town Alfred, state Maine

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

title N/A has this property been determined eligible? \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no

date \_\_\_ federal \_\_\_ state \_\_\_ county \_\_\_ local

depository for survey records

city, town state

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved      date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Laudholm Farm is a 268 acre tract of land which is bounded on the north by the Little River estuary, and on the east by the Atlantic Ocean. Skinners Mill Road forms the western boundary while Laudholm Farm Road and the Beach Road roughly delineates the southern limits of the nominated property. The remaining area is bounded by a mixture of fields, woodland and scattered house lots. The property consists of the main house, a secondary house and numerous outbuildings. The land included within the nomination is no longer farmed. It is used as a nature preserve which consists of fields, woods, marshland, and beach. This use leaves the property in a state which closely approximates the character of a dairy farm as it was in the early part of this century. The following buildings contribute to this nomination:

#### 1. Main House, c. 1860-1870

This building consists of a two-and-one-half story main section and a two-story ell with an attached one-and-one-half story woodshed. All sections are frame construction with clapboard siding, gable roofs and granite foundations. The windows in the main section are six-over-six double-hung sash. The main section has a principal facade of five bays, gable ends that are four bays and a veranda which extends around two sides. There are three pedimented dormers on both roof slopes and two brick chimneys. Exterior ornamentation is a combination of Greek Revival and Colonial Revival. There are pedimented gable ends on the main section, cornice returns on the ell, pilasters, window caps and pedimented dormers. Rows of guttae ornament the cornices and window caps, while the veranda is supported on Tuscan columns. In addition, there is a porch over the north entry, a small pedimented portico over the east entry to the ell, and a servants' porch on the west side of the ell.

The interior of the house has much of the original woodwork. In the main house this consists of a newel post and window, door, and baseboard moldings. characteristic of the Italianate style. The four wood mantel pieces are transitional Greek Revival-Italianate. Dropped ceilings, bathroom fixtures and third floor panelling all date from the late nineteenth or early twentieth century. The section of the ell adjoining the main house contains elements of eighteenth century panelling which, along with the framing system, suggests that part of the house was taken from an earlier structure. The remainder of the ell, except for the woodshed, was added by George C. Lord in the 1880s. The woodshed appears to date from the early to mid-nineteenth century, although it was also enlarged at some point. Lord also made other changes. For example, the roof over the main section of the house was raised and the dormers, the ell portico, and a two-story bathroom wing on the west side of the main section were added. Sometime during the early 1900s the original porch posts with brackets were replaced with Tuscan columns.

#### 2. Farmer's House, c. 1830-50

This one-and-one-half story house is wood frame construction with clapboard siding, a gable roof and windows with two-over-two double-hung sash. The principal entry has sidelights and is enframed with Greek Revival style moldings. Late nineteenth century additions include complete window replacement, a gambrel roof dormer over the main entry, and a mansard roof second story on the ell. The large central chimney has been reduced in size in the course of extensive interior remodelling.

#### 3. Farmer's House Shed, mid-nineteenth century

Constructed of wood with clapboard siding, this one-and-one-half story building has a gable roof, six-over-six double-hung sash and a sliding barn door entry on the east side. There are two doors on the west and south sides.

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4. Sheep Barn, c. 1890-1900

The main section is rectangular, two stories high and has clapboard siding and a gable roof. The doors are located in the center of the long east side. Extending out from each gable end are one-and-one-half story wings, also with gable roofs and clapboard siding. The wings have six-over-six double-hung sash and there are fixed multi-light sash throughout the structure. The building is severely deteriorated.

5. Well-house Gazebo, c. 1880s

Located next to the main house, this small structure is octagonal with round arched openings and a peaked roof supporting a finial. Between the lower level of the posts is lattice work.

6. Barn, c. 1905

This structure replaced an earlier barn on the site which burned in 1905. The building consists of a hay barn and attached dairy barn. The hay barn is a large wood frame building with clapboard siding and a gable roof. The windows consist of paired double-hung sash with six-over-six lights. There are two hipped roof ventilators along the ridge of the roof. The principal entry is through double doors in the narrow south gable end which faces the house. The interior of the barn remains largely unaltered with horse stalls, hay storage areas and tack rooms.

Extending perpendicular to the hay barn in its east side is a dairy barn, also of wood construction and clapboard siding. This low-slung hipped roof building has a long monitor with metal ventilators. The original cow stalls are intact. The cement floors were added in 1916. Attached to the south side is a one-story woodshed, and behind the barn is a dereriated wooden silo.

7. Creamery, 1920s

Located near the dairy barn, this one-story wooden building has clapboard siding, a hipped roof and windows with six-over-six double-hung sash. A single entry is on each end.

8. Bull Barn, early 1900s

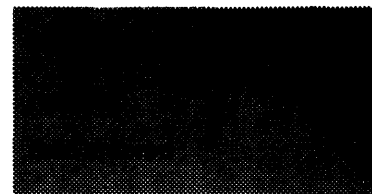
The large two-story central section of this two-story structure has a hipped roof with wide overhanging eaves supported on exposed rafters. On top of the roof is a ventilator with its own broadly hipped roof. The building has clapboard siding and six-over-six double-hung sash. Flanking the building are one-story wings with gable roofs. In the rear are one and two-story connectors which join the building to a wooden silo.

9. Automobile Garages, 1907/1920s

These two structures are identical except for size. The garage with two bays dates from 1907, while the five-bay structure was added later. Both are one story, wood frame buildings with clapboard siding, hipped roofs and have windows with multi-pane lights. In addition to the double garage doors, the 1908 structure contains a single pedestrian door in the center of the principal facade. Both buildings have hipped roof ventilators.

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10. Ice House, c. 1880s

This small one-story structure has a gable roof and clapboard siding. Historically it is an important surviving building type. The wood frame for the water tower is next to the ice house.

11. Chick Brooder Building, c. 1916

This one-story hipped roof structure has clapboard siding and windows with six-over-six double-hung sash. It was converted into a summer residence, possibly as early as the 1930s. The exterior appearance has remained unaltered.

The following noncontributing buildings have been altered or are outside the periods of significance of this nomination:

12. Manure Storage Shed, c. 1905

Although historically an important barn of the farm, this small structure's roof has collapsed and it is in severely deteriorated condition. Its c. 1905 construction date is based on its relation to the barn. A metal track connected both buildings and provided a gravity-operated arrangement in which manure was transported down to the shed, entering through the door by the force of its weight. The manure shed is a wooden building with a gable roof and novelty siding. It rests on a concrete foundation.

13. Hennery, 1916

Historically this long structure was related to the chick brooder house. The open bays on the south end were originally enclosed with doors and windows like the north end. The building is wood frame and has a gable roof and clapboard siding.

14. Killing House, early 1900s

This building was also converted to use for a summer home. It is a one-and-one-half story wood frame building with clapboard siding and a gable roof. The windows vary in size.

15. Log Cottage, 1930s

Constructed on another site, this structure was moved to this location in the 1980s. It is a wood frame building with a gable roof and multi-pane sash. Vertical log siding covers the exterior.

## 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400–1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500–1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600–1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700–1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800–1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900–	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Various	Builder/Architect	Unknown
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### Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Laudholm Farm is historically significant as a farmstead which has been under cultivation since the seventeenth century, and as the only surviving agricultural complex in Wells, an area of intensive modern development. The landscape included in this nomination reflects man's harvesting of this land over the past three hundred years, while the surviving buildings represent changing agricultural uses from the early 1800s to the 1920s. In addition, the area has a high potential for seventeenth and eighteenth century archaeological sites associated with saltwater farming and the construction of wharfs on the water.

The nominated property was originally part of the extensive seventeenth century land-holdings of Sir Fernando Gorges which was later sub-divided among several settlers. One man, William Symonds, stands out as an important early occupant of this land. William Symonds' farm, located near the Little River estuary, was acquired in 1655 and destroyed in 1675 in King Phillips War. Historical accounts are not clear regarding re-settlement by Symonds, but the property was sold by his grandson in the early eighteenth century. Nathaniel Clark, Jr., acquired portions of the farm in 1717, 1720 and 1728. Deed transactions indicate that Clark acquired a dwelling in the 1720 transaction. During this period an important early road was constructed through this land down to the water, thus providing a critical link to the outside world.

Nathaniel's son Adam inherited the land in 1762, and his son Benaiah acquired it in 1804. It passed to Theodore, Benaiah's son, in 1816. Theodore Clark's farm fluctuated in size, depending upon the requirements of his various farming activities. For example, in 1850 the 1,300 acre farm produced potatoes, corn, hay, barley, and fruit. In 1860 the emphasis was on dairy herds, and in 1870, when the property consisted of only 550 acres, sheep herds predominated. It is likely that Theodore built the "Farmer's House", a small one-and-one-half story dwelling with Greek Revival style moldings. This structure was probably erected in the 1830s or 1840s, replacing an earlier farmhouse. That older residence appears to have been incorporated into the ell of the present main house, which Theodore built sometime after 1856.

Upon Theodore Clark's death in 1880, his heirs auctioned off the farm. George C. Lord, president of the Boston and Maine Railroad and the New England Fire and Insurance Company, purchased the Clark farm, as well as adjoining land. According to some accounts the additional property was also a farm dating back to the seventeenth century. The Clark farm, which was then known as "The Elms", was acquired for use as a working farm. A farm manager lived in the "Farmer's Cottage", while the main house was reserved for use by family members during visits. While the Lords were interested in the continued use of the land as a working farm, they also erected a cottage on the beach for recreational purposes (no longer extant).

George Lord began many of the improvements to the farm, including enlarging and remodelling the main house. Some of the work, however, may have been done under his son Robert's tenure, which began after the patriarch's death in 1893. Robert, also a Boston businessman, imported Guernsey cattle from England and constructed a large new barn when the old one burned in 1905. After his death in 1908, his brother Charles took over. Charles changed the name to "Laudholm Farm" after his estate in Newton, Massachusetts. He added the poultry houses and purchased the old Wells and Cole farms (not included in this nomination). His son, George C. Lord, III, was the first in that family to reside year-round on the

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

Bourne, E. E., History of Wells and Kennebunk, Portland, 1875.  
Laudholm Farm Historical Report by Dan Stockford, 1985 (copy at Laudholm Farm).  
York County Deeds.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 268

Quadrangle name Wells

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	9
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3	7	4	2	3	0
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4	8	0	0	3	9	5
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3	7	5	7	1	0
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4	7	9	9	5	5	0
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3	7	4	7	4	0
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4	7	9	8	1	3	0
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4	7	9	9	5	8	5
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Verbal boundary description and justification

The nominated property of 268 acres occupies the Town of Wells Tax Map 148, Lots 1-1 and 1-2. See attached site map.

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Roger G. Reed, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date December, 1986

street & number 55 Capitol Street, Station #65 telephone 207/289-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine 04333

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☐ national ☒ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title S.H.P.O.

date

9/21/87

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

10/5/87

Patrick Andrews  
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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farm. Electricity and heating were added in 1916. George may also have built the bull barn. Due to the economic depression of the 1930s the Lords opened the farm to summer boarders. "Laudholm Farm Manor and Cottages" included several small buildings converted for use by guests. Several of these buildings are still retained for lifetime use by Lord family heirs.

In 1952 George sold off the cattle and ceased active participation in the farm. Local farmers, however, continued to work the land and use the outbuildings until the 1970s. Concerned about the future of the land, George Lord encouraged the State to purchase a portion for public use. The Department of Parks and Recreation acquired 199 acres in 1969. The remaining property, including the farm buildings, were acquired in 1980 by the Town of Wells to be administered by the Laudholm Trust as the Wells National Estuary Sanctuary. No plans have yet been established for use of the barn and outbuildings. The main house is presently undergoing conversion for a visitors' center.

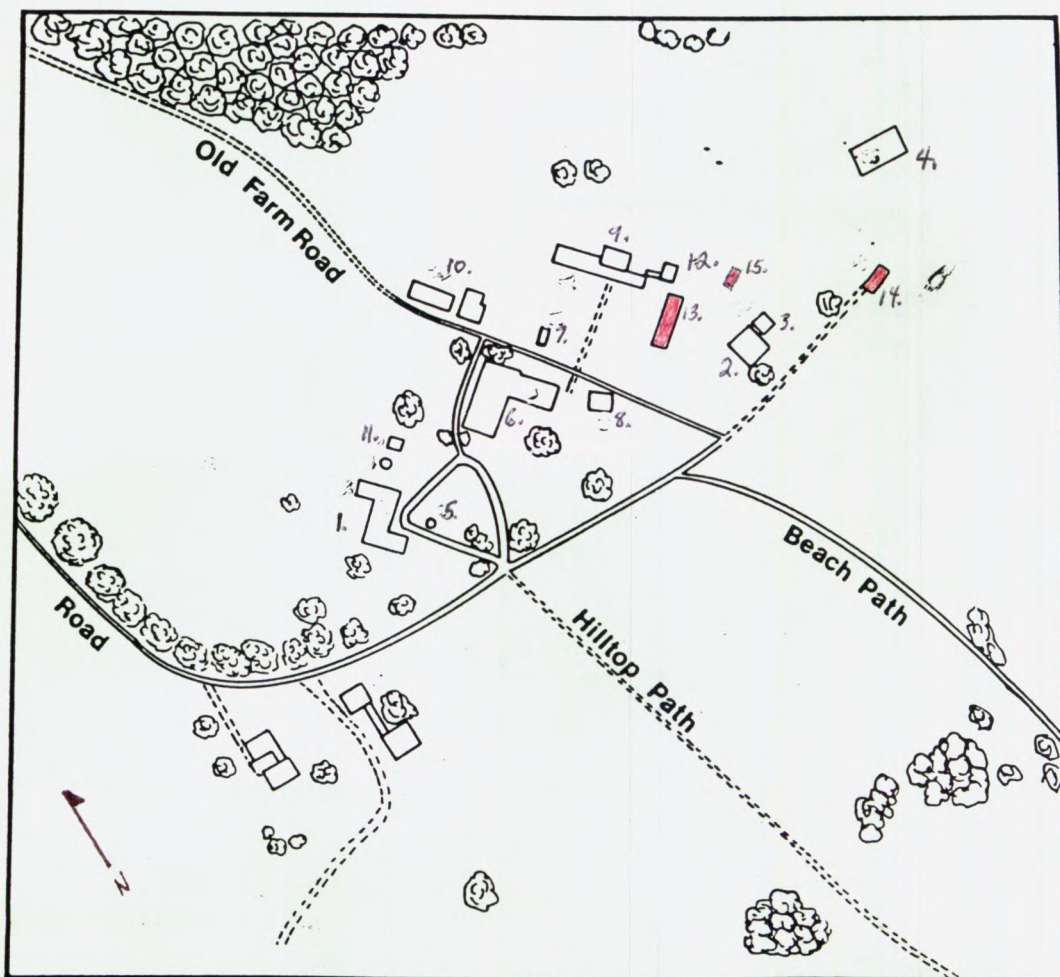
This nomination includes all of the surviving farm buildings constructed or remodelled by the Lord family. The acreage represents that portion of the Lord farm which was most actively used for its dairy herds, as well as the sites of the earliest saltwater farms in this area. The period of significance for this farm complex terminates in 1937.





3/5/87





Laudholm Farm  
 Wells, York County, Maine  
 Detail Map Showing Locations of  
 Buildings Keyed to Nomination.  
 Non-contributing Structures are  
 Marked in Red.